(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Government orders were issued vide the following letters for revision of Pension/Family Pension of Pre-1986 and pre-1996 pensioners, (i) 1(2)/97|D(Pension|Services) dated 24.11.1997; (ii) MoD letter No. 1(3)/98/D(Pensions|Services) dated 27.5.1998 and (iii) MoD Letter No. 1(2)/98/D(Pensions|Services) dated 14.7.1998.

The details of these orders are as given below:—

Vide the letter mentioned at (i) above, orders were issued for consolidation of pension of all pre-1996 pensioners/family pensioners belonging to Armed Forces. These orders are applicable to both officers and Personnel Below Officers Ranks (PBOR) and their families. Pension Disbursing Authorities were authorised to pay Pension/Family Pension at the consolidated rates w.e.f. 01-01-1996 directly without any authorisation from Pension Sanctioning Authorities. The Pension is consolidated in the following manner:—

(a) The existing pension/family pension;

(b) Dearness Relief upto CPI 1510 i.e. @ 148 per cent, 111 per cent and 96 per cent of Basic Pension as admissible on 01-01-1996 vide DP and PW's OM No. 42/8/96-P&PW(G) dated 20-3-1996.

(c) Interim Relief I

(d) Interim Relief II

(e) Fitment weightage @ 40 per cent, of the existing pension/family pension i.e. of (a) above.

The letter mentioned at (ii) above was issued for final revision of pension of pre-1986 retire Commissioned Officers of Army, Navy and Air Force based on fixation of notional pay as on 01-01-1986 and it also covers revision of family pension in respect of all Commissioned Officers who retired before 01-01-1996. The notional pay arrived at is treated as average emoluments for the purpose of calculation of pension as on 01-01-1986 as per the pension formula then prescribed. The pension so worked out is to be consolidated as on 01-01-1996 as per the fitment formula indicated in (i) above.

The ordinary family pension has also been revised at the uniform rate of 30 per cent of the last pay drawn/notional pay and then is to be consolidated as per fitment formula indicated in para 2 above.

Orders have also been issued vide the letter mentioned at (iii) above, for revision of pension/family pension in respect of pre-1986/pre-1996 PBOR pensioners/family pensioners. In this order tables of revised pension have been annexed. These tables are based on notional fixation of pay as on 01-01-1986 and then consolidated as on 01-01-1996 applying the same fitment formula as applicable in the case of officers.

Use of bullet proof jacket by criminals

*260. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Constable kills dreaded gangster", published in the Times of India, dated the 16th November, 1998, regarding wearing

of bullet proof jackets by criminals in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take any action to check such misuse;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The matter is under consideration.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Coal production in West Bengal

1861. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state the reasons for decrease in coal production (Provisional) in West Bengal alone in 1997-98 when production in all the States has increased from 1996-97 estimate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): Besides West Bengal there has been reduction in production of coal in Assam also during 1997-98. The reasons for low production of coal in West Bengal during 1997-98 includes;

(i) Delayed supply of equipment for longwall faces in Jhanjra & Satgram.

(ii) Even after delayed receipt of longwall faces equipment for satgram, the same could not be installed due to agitation by local people demanding jobs and the same is now being transferred to Jhanjra.

(iii) Collapse of longwall support in Kottadih underground mine due to unforeseen dynamic weighting leading to stoppage of production from longwall face.

(iv) Stoppages of work on account of strikes/bandhs.

(v) Fund constraint arising from heavy losses being incurred by the company resulting in inability to provide timely supply of essential equipment & stores.

(vi) Decrease in off-take of coal has also affected the production programme adversely.

Demand and production of coal

1862. SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the present demand and production of coal; and

(b) the steps taken to supplement the shortage by the private sector coal companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Though the demand of coal assessed by the Planning Commission for the current year 1998-99 is 325.38 million tonnes of raw coal plus 7.50 million tonnes middlings, there is less demand of coal from consuming sectors in compaision to that projected originally. The target of coal production set for the current year has been 306.50 million tonnes.

(b) No shortage of non-coking coal is likely during the current year because of adequate supply of coal. The actual demand is less than what was estimated for the current year leading to the need for downward revision in coal production. However, thee production of coking coal is less than the demand. Steel plants are therefore, importing coking coal.